

## REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claim 24 has been amended. Claims 24-30 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Diaz et al. (US Published Application 2004/0087964) as a matter of design choice in view of Ahmed further as a matter of design choice. Claim 24 recites "the sheath being attached to the proximal segment of the flexible pusher member." The Examiner indicated that Diaz et al. teaches a device in which the sheath is attached to a segment of the flexible pusher member. However, Diaz et al. discloses in paragraph [0046] that the introducer 10 is slidably disposed about the deployment catheter 42. Figs. 5-8 of Diaz et al. illustrate that the proximal portion of the sheath 12 at the integral tab 24 is removable from the catheter 42, and is not attached to a proximal segment of the catheter. Figs. 5 and 6 of Diaz et al. also illustrate that the distal section of the catheter 42 at the coil 50 is slidable out through the end of the sheath 12, and is not attached to the sheath 12.

Claim 24 further recites "a longitudinal slot formed in the upper wall of the distal portion of the elongated tubular member." In the present invention, the slot extends in the distal portion of the sheath, while in Diaz et al. the slit does not extend to the distal portion of the sheath 12, as is shown in Fig. 3, and it is clear from Diaz et al. provisional application 60/260,742, page 2, line 23, to page 3, line 1, that the slit does not extend distally past the stop member 30.

The slot of the present invention is quite different from the configuration of the slot of Diaz et al., in that the slot of the present invention permits "introduction of the vasoocclusive device into the interior channel and removal of the embolic coil and distal segment of the pusher member through the slot," as is recited in Claim 24, and which is not permitted in Diaz et al.

The Examiner acknowledged that Diaz et al. does not teach a v-shaped configured guide. Ahmed was cited as disclosing angled winged flanges, and the Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to provide Diaz et al. with winged flanges as taught by Ahmed, in order to enhance guiding an element as it is pushed through the opening in Diaz et al. Claim 24 recites "the sheath being attached to the proximal segment of the flexible pusher member." Ahmed discloses that a flower stem may be inserted through an opening 18 of a tube 12, but the flower stem is also not attached to the tube, so that it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended patentably distinguish the combination of Diaz et al. and Ahmed, and that the rejection of Claims 24-30 on the grounds of obviousness from Diaz et al. in view of Ahmed should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or fees in connection with this amendment to Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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